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(54) **DEVICE FOR STAINING OR PAINTING PLANKS**

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(71) Applicant: **StainTrac, LLP**, Tulsa, OK (US)
(72) Inventors: **Duane Carl Voss**, Inola, OK (US);
Clifford Marion Richison, Tulsa, OK (US); **Joshua Mikal Burrup**, Broken Arrow, OK (US)
(73) Assignee: **STAINTRAC, LLP**, Tulsa, OK (US)

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Primary Examiner — Binu Thomas
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — James F. Lea, III; Gable Gotwals

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B05C 9/04 (2006.01)
B05C 1/02 (2006.01)
B05B 13/04 (2006.01)
B27K 5/02 (2006.01)

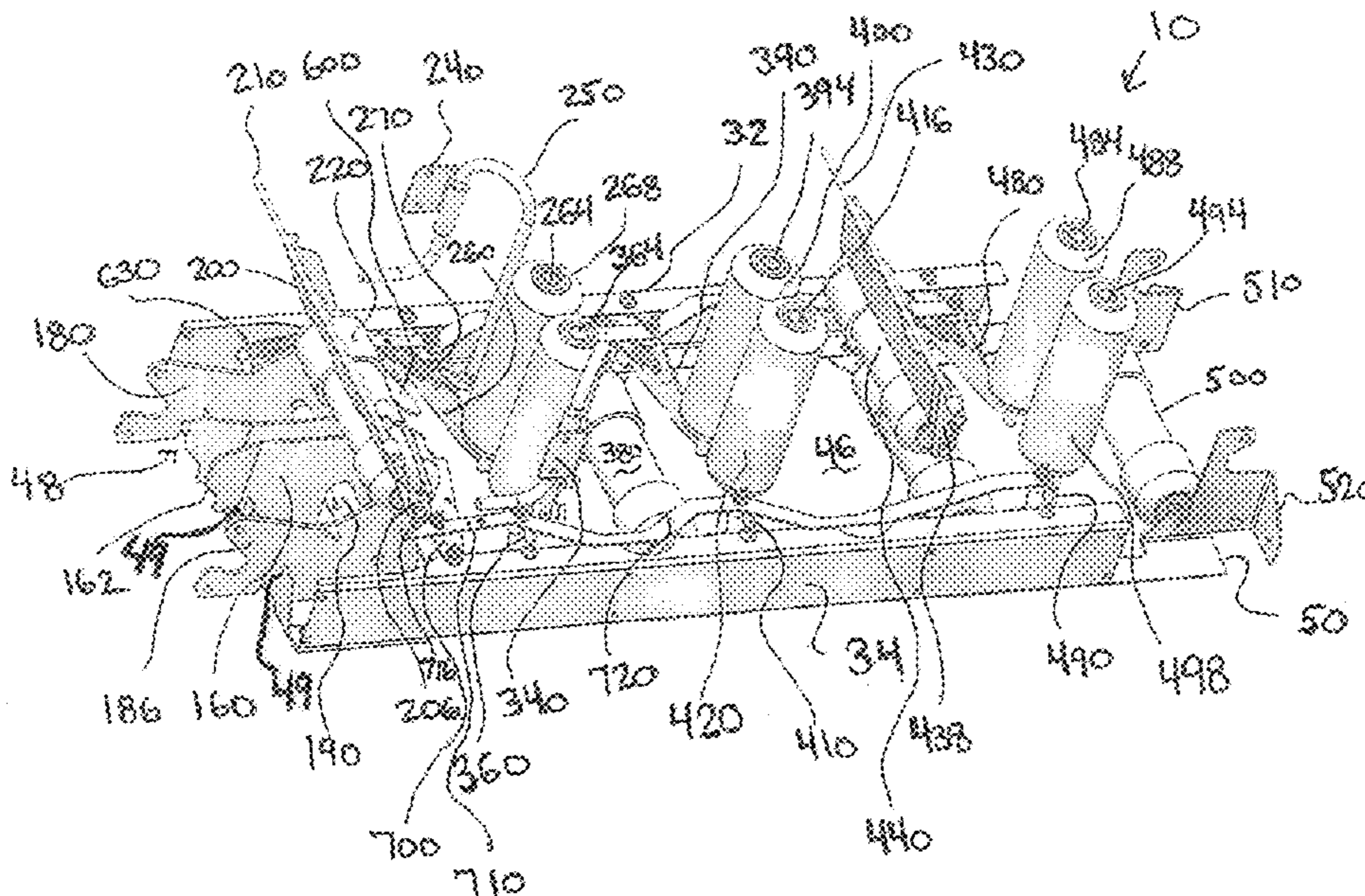
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A device for staining or painting planks has an enclosure and a plank receiver for guiding a plank into the enclosure. At least one pair of vertical rollers are provided for engaging the plank received in the plank receiver. A lever may be positioned to contact the plank upon exit from the plank receiver. A linkage bar is affixed to the lever and to vertical rollers. Moving the lever by insertion of the plank moves the vertical rollers in preparation for receiving a leading edge of the plank. The vertical rollers are mounted on swing arms for facilitating adjustment of a space between the left vertical rollers and the right vertical rollers for accommodating planks of various thicknesses. Vertical sprayers are pivotally mounted and in communication with the swing arms for pivoting with the vertical rollers for maintaining a constant distance between the vertical rollers and the left vertical sprayer.

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
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(58) **Field of Classification Search**
None
See application file for complete search history.

16 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets



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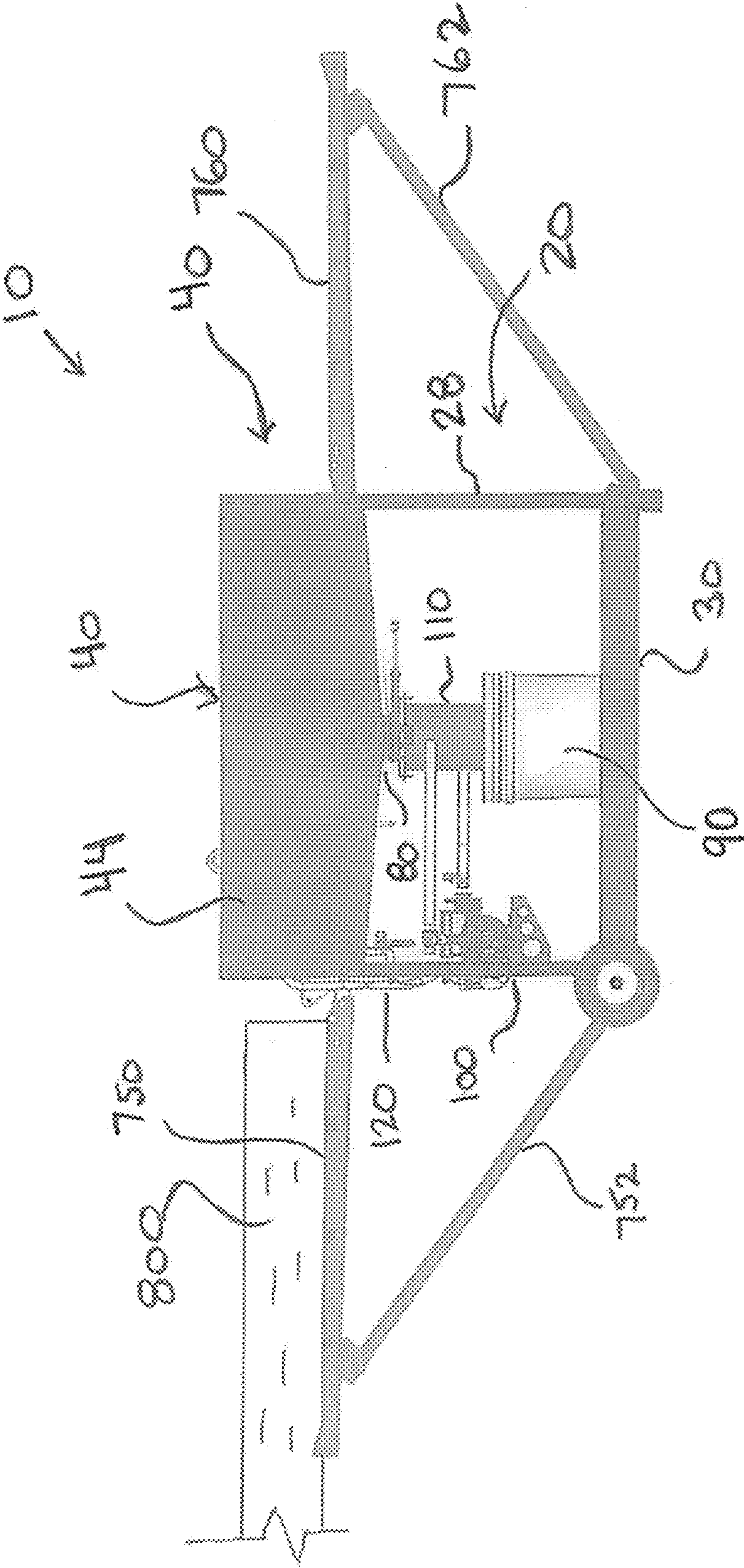


Fig. 1

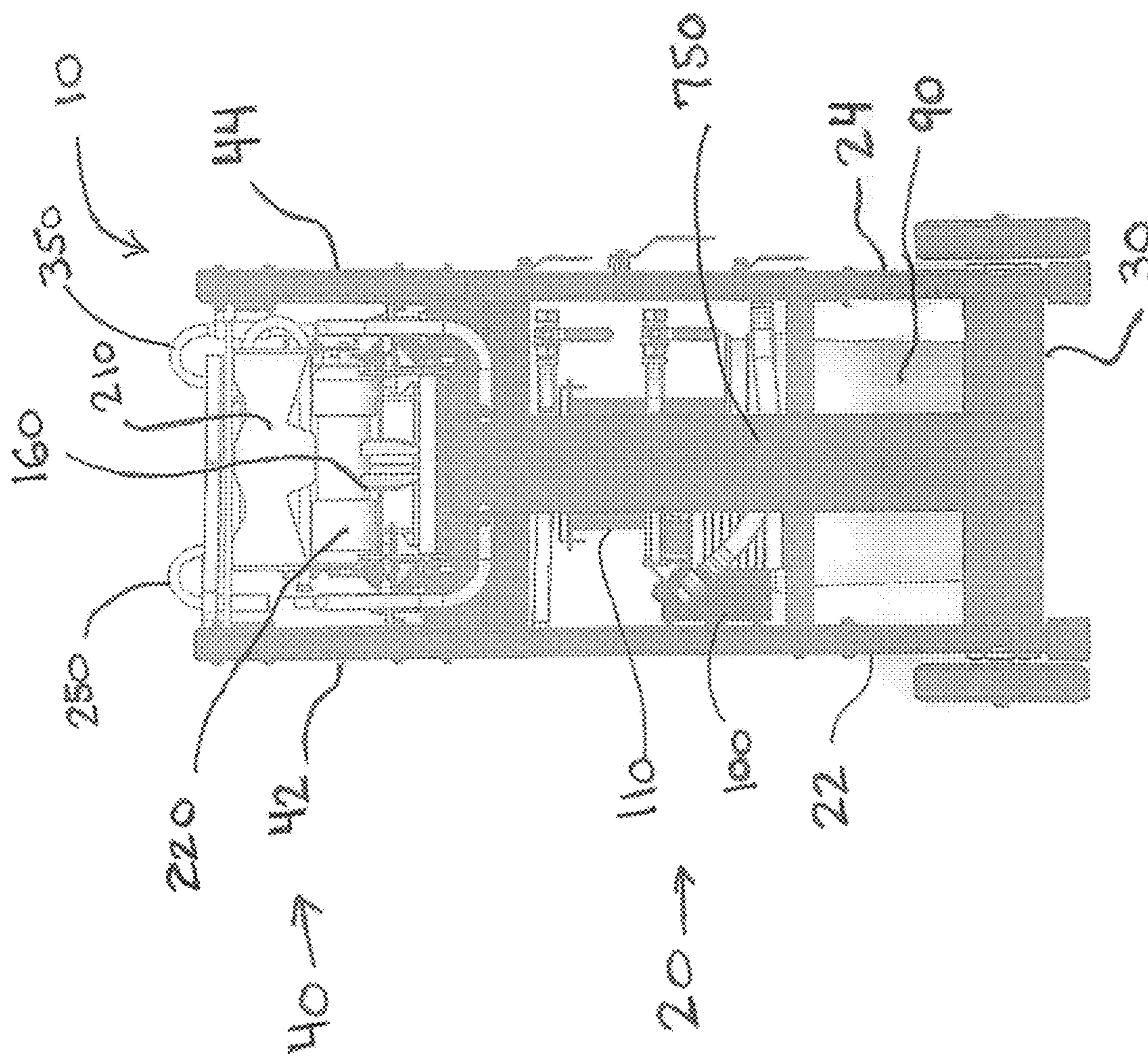


Fig. 2

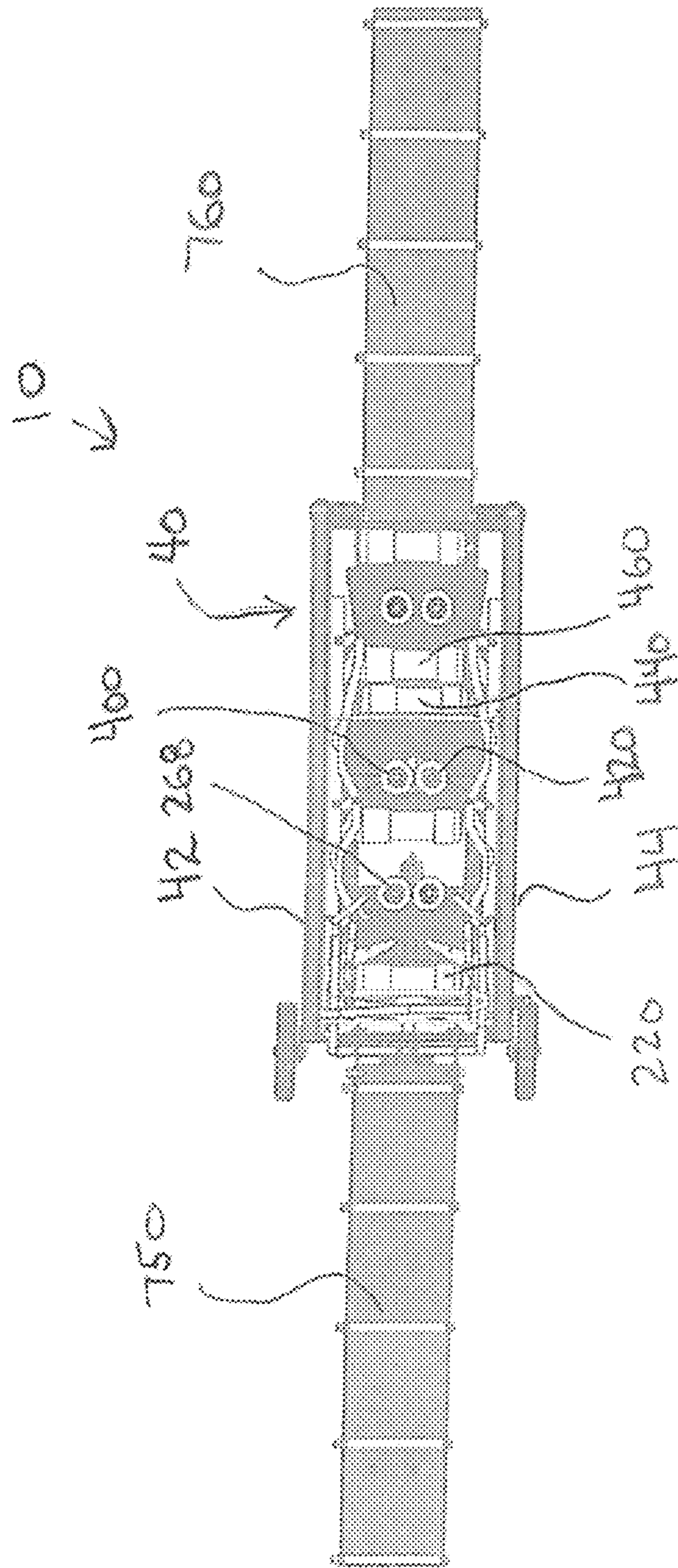


Fig. 3

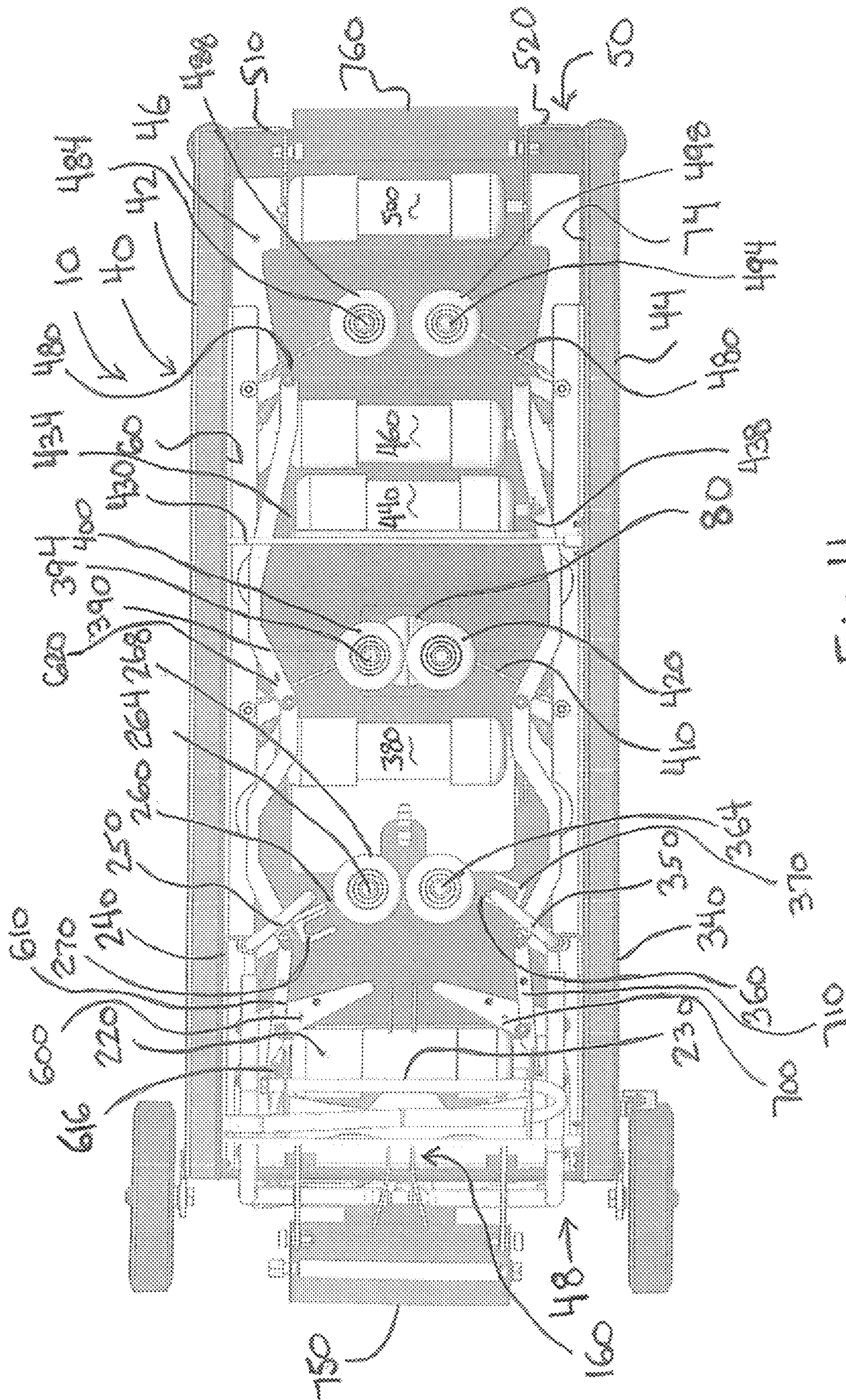
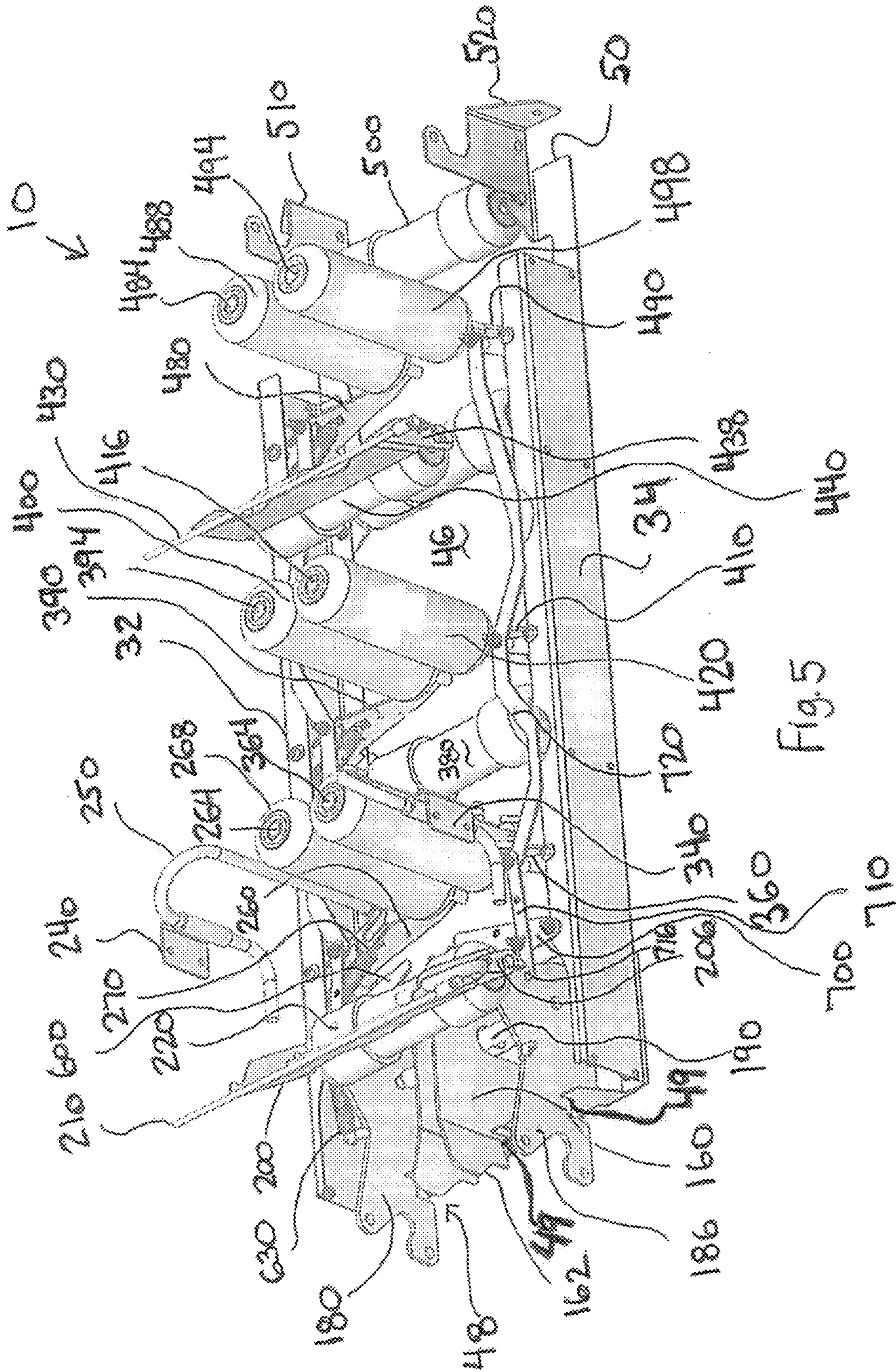


Fig. 4



DEVICE FOR STAINING OR PAINTING PLANKS

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims the priority of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 62/861,049 titled "DEVICE FOR PAINTING PLANKS," filed Jun. 13, 2019, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a device for quickly staining or painting a longitudinal member, such as a fence plank. More particularly, the device of the invention is an enclosure having a plurality of rollers for contacting and painting or staining each side of a plank and having mechanisms to ensure ease of movement of the planks through the device.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Staining or painting planks, e.g., for use in fence construction, is repetitive and is time and labor intensive. Additionally, there is a potential for a large amount of paint or stain to be wasted in transition from one plank to another.

It is desirable to automate the staining or painting of planks for efficiency. Additionally, it is desirable to reduce the amount of stain or paint that may be wasted.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A device for staining or painting planks is described herein. The device includes an enclosure defining a bottom surface. A plank receiver is provided for guiding a plank into the enclosure. A first pair of vertical rollers are provided for engaging the plank received in the plank receiver. A second pair of vertical rollers may also be provided for engaging the plank. A lever is positioned to contact the plank upon exit from the plank receiver. A linkage bar is affixed to the lever. The linkage bar is additionally affixed to one of the first pair of vertical rollers and to one of the second pair of vertical rollers. Movement of the lever, e.g. by the plank when the plank is inserted into the enclosure, moves one of the first pair of vertical rollers and one of the second pair of vertical rollers in preparation for receiving a leading edge of the plank.

A frame is preferably provided for supporting the enclosure. A container is supported by a lower shelf of the frame. A pump is provided for delivering contents from the container into the enclosure. The bottom surface of the enclosure defines a drain orifice for transferring unused stain or paint back to the container.

In a preferred embodiment, the plank receiver has a right side and a left side, wherein the right side and the left side are adjustable with respect to one another for accommodating planks of various thicknesses.

In one embodiment, a first left vertical roller of the first pair of vertical rollers is mounted on a left swing arm and a first right vertical roller of the first pair of vertical rollers is mounted on a right swing arm for facilitating adjustment of a space between the first left vertical roller and the first right vertical roller for accommodating planks of various thicknesses.

A left vertical sprayer is pivotally mounted on and in communication with the left swing arm for pivoting with the first left vertical roller for maintaining a constant distance

between the first left vertical roller and the left vertical sprayer. A right vertical sprayer is pivotally mounted on and in communication with the right swing arm for pivoting with the first right vertical roller for maintaining a constant distance between the first right vertical roller and the right vertical sprayer.

At least one horizontal roller is preferably provided in the enclosure. The horizontal roller is adapted for vertical movement in response to the plank for accommodating planks of different heights. A horizontal sprayer is provided adjacent to the horizontal roller. The horizontal sprayer is adapted for moving with the horizontal roller for maintaining a constant distance between the horizontal sprayer and the horizontal roller.

The second left vertical roller of the second pair of vertical rollers is mounted on a second left swing arm and the second right vertical roller of the second pair of vertical rollers is mounted on a second right swing arm for facilitating adjustment of a space between the second left vertical roller and the second right vertical roller for accommodating planks of various thicknesses.

At least one plank receiving platform is provided for supporting the plank upon at least one of entry and exit from the enclosure.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a side elevation view of the device of the invention.

FIG. 2 is an end elevation view of the device of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a plan view of the device of FIG. 1.

FIG. 4 is an enlarged plan view of the enclosure of the device of FIG. 1.

FIG. 5 is an isometric view of a spray nozzle and roller assembly of the device of FIG. 1.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Disclosed herein is a device **10** for staining or painting planks. Device **10** includes frame **20** having first left vertical support **22**, first right vertical support **24**, a second left vertical support, and second right vertical support **28**. Lower tray **30** is located between first left vertical support **22**, first right vertical support **24**, the second left vertical support, and second right vertical support **28**.

Left enclosure support **32** extends between first left vertical support **22** and second left vertical support **26**. Right enclosure support **34** extends between first right vertical support **24** and the second right vertical support.

Enclosure **40** has left side panel **42** adjacent to left enclosure support **32**, right side panel **44** adjacent to right enclosure support **34**. Enclosure **40** additionally includes bottom panel **46** having a first end **48** and a second end **50**. First end **48** defines a plurality of slots **49**. Bottom panel **46** spans between left enclosure support **32** and right enclosure support **34**. Right side panel **44** has a top edge, a bottom edge, a first end, a second end, inside surface **60**, an outside surface, and a midpoint between the first end and the second end. The first end is connected to first right vertical support **24**. The second end is connected to second right vertical support **28**.

Left side panel **42** has a top edge, a bottom edge, a first end, a second end, inside surface **74**, an outside surface, and a midpoint between the first end and the second end. The first end is connected to first left vertical support **24**. The

second end is connected to the second left vertical support. Bottom panel **46** defines drain orifice **80**.

Container **90** is supported by lower tray **30**. Container **90** defines an interior. Pump **100** is preferably located adjacent container **90**. Pump **100** is provided for pumping out contents of container **90**. Drain pipe **110** is in communication with drain orifice **80**. Drain pipe **110** has an upper end and a lower end. The upper end is in communication with drain orifice **80**. The lower end is received in container **90** for delivering excess stain or paint from enclosure **40** for re-use.

Vertical pipe **120** is preferably affixed to first right vertical support **24** for delivery of liquids from pump **100** into the enclosure as is known in the art. Piping and tubing extend from vertical pipe **120** to horizontal and vertical sprayers within enclosure **40** as discussed below.

Plank receiver **160** has receiving end **162**, a left side defining a support roller pathway, and a right side defining a support roller pathway. Receiving end **162** is preferably flared for receiving a plank. In one embodiment, the left side and the right side of plank receiver **160** may be positioned to be spaced apart at various widths within one of plurality of slots **49** to accommodate planks of different thicknesses.

First left fixed support **180** is adjacent to bottom panel **46** proximate first end **48**. First left fixed support **180** defines a left support roller orifice. First right fixed support **186** is adjacent to bottom panel **46** proximate first end **48**. First right fixed support **186** defines a right support roller orifice. First support roller **190** is rotationally received in the first left support roller orifice and in the first right support roller orifice. First support roller **190** (FIGS. **5**, **6**) passes through support roller pathways of the left side and the right side of plank receiver **160**.

First left slide bar **200** is in slidable communication with first left fixed support **180**. First right slide bar **206** is in slidable communication with first right fixed support **186**. Sizing plate **210** (FIG. **1**) is affixed to first left slide bar **200** and is affixed to first right slide bar **206**. Sizing plate **210** is preferably mounted at an angle from vertical. Sizing plate **210** is provided for contacting a plank received in plank receiver **160**. Sizing plate **210** is movable upwardly with first left slide bar **200** and first right slide bar **206** to accommodate planks of different widths.

First upper horizontal roller **220** is affixed to first left slide bar **200** and first right slide bar **206** above plank receiver **160**. First upper horizontal roller **220** is for contacting an upper surface of a plank. First horizontal sprayer **230** (best seen in FIG. **4**) is affixed to at least one of first left slide bar **200**, first right slide bar **206**, and sizing plate **210** for maintaining a fixed distance from first upper horizontal roller **220**. For smaller planks, sizing plate **210** may not be contacted, i.e., a plank may first contact first upper horizontal roller **220**. However, in one embodiment first upper horizontal roller **220**, first horizontal sprayer **230** and sizing plate **210** move vertically as a unit.

First left hinge **240** is affixed to inside surface **60** of left side panel **42**. First left vertical sprayer **250** is pivotally affixed to first left hinge **240**. First left vertical sprayer **250** has a perforated vertical portion and a terminal end. First left roller swing arm **260** is pivotally affixed to left enclosure support **32**. First left vertical axle **264** extends upwardly from first left roller swing arm **260**. First left vertical roller **268** is rotationally mounted on first left vertical axle **264**.

Left position retainer **270** is mounted on first left roller swing arm **260** for receiving the terminal end of first left vertical sprayer **250**. Left position retainer **270** is for maintaining the perforated vertical portion at a desired distance

from first left vertical roller **268** for delivering stain or paint to first left vertical roller **268**.

First right hinge **340** is affixed to inside surface **74** of right side panel **44**. First right vertical sprayer **350** is pivotally affixed to first right hinge **340**. First right vertical sprayer **350** has a perforated vertical portion and a terminal end. First right roller swing arm **360** is pivotally affixed to right enclosure support **34**. First right vertical axle **364** extends upwardly from first right roller swing arm **360**. First right vertical roller **368** is rotationally mounted on first right vertical axle **364**. Right position retainer **370** is mounted on first right roller swing arm **360** for receiving the terminal end of the first right vertical sprayer. Right position retainer **370** is for maintaining the perforated vertical portion adjacent to first right vertical roller **368** for delivering stain or paint to first right vertical roller **368**.

First lower horizontal roller **380** is for contacting a bottom surface of a plank. First lower horizontal roller **380** is rotationally affixed to left enclosure support **32** and right enclosure support **34**. First lower horizontal roller **380** is located along the path of plank after first left vertical roller **268** and first right vertical roller **368**.

Second left roller swing arm **390** is pivotally affixed to left enclosure support **32** after first lower horizontal roller **380**. Second left vertical axle **394** extends upwardly from second left roller swing arm **390**. Second left vertical roller **400** is rotationally mounted on second left vertical axle **394**. Second right roller swing arm **410** is pivotally affixed to right enclosure support **34**. Second right vertical axle **416** extends upwardly from second right roller swing arm **410**. Second right vertical roller **420** is rotationally mounted on second right vertical axle **416**.

Horizontal support rod **430** is affixed to left side panel **42** and right side panel **44** after second left vertical roller **400** and second right vertical roller **420**. Left hanger **434** is affixed to horizontal support rod **430**. Right hanger **438** is affixed to horizontal support rod **430**. Second upper horizontal roller **440** is rotationally affixed to right hanger **434** and to left hanger **438** for contacting an upper surface of a plank. Second lower horizontal roller **460** is rotationally affixed to left enclosure support **32** and right enclosure support **34** after second upper horizontal roller **440** for contacting a lower surface of a plank.

Third left roller swing arm **480** is pivotally affixed to left enclosure support **32** after second lower horizontal roller **460**. Third left vertical axle **484** extends upwardly from third left roller swing arm **480**. Third left roller **488** is rotationally mounted on third left vertical axle **484**. Third right roller swing arm **490** is pivotally affixed to right enclosure support **34** after second lower horizontal roller **460**. Third right vertical axle **494** extends upwardly from third right roller swing arm **490**. Third right vertical roller **498** is rotationally mounted on third right vertical axle **494**.

Third lower horizontal roller **500** is affixed to left end bracket **510** and to right end bracket **520** proximate to second end **58** of bottom panel **46**.

Left lever **600** is pivotally affixed to left enclosure support **32**. Left lever **600** extends into a path of a plank proximate to plank receiver **160**. Left spring link **610** has a first end and a second end. The first end defines spring tab **616**. Left spring link **610** is affixed to left lever **600**.

Left linkage bar **620** has a first end and a second end. The first end is affixed to the second end of left spring link **610**. Left linkage bar **620** is in communication with first left roller swing arm **260**, second left roller swing arm **390**, and third left roller swing arm **480** such that, when said left lever **600** is displaced by a plank, left spring link **610** and left linkage

bar **620** are longitudinally translated, thereby moving first left vertical roller **268** away from first right vertical roller **368**, moving said second left vertical roller **400** away from second right vertical roller **420** and moving third left vertical roller **488** away from third right vertical roller **498**. Left spring **630** has a first end and a second end. The first end is affixed to first left fixed support **180**. The second end is affixed to spring tab **616** of left spring link **610**.

Right lever **700** is attached to right enclosure support **34**. Right lever **700** extends into a path of a plank proximate to plank receiver **160**. Right spring link **710** has a first end and a second end. The first end defines spring tab **716**. Right spring link **710** is affixed to right lever **700**.

Right linkage bar **720** has a first end and a second end. The first end is affixed to the second end of right spring link **710**. Right linkage bar **720** is in communication with first right roller swing arm **360**, second right roller swing arm **410**, and third right roller swing arm **490** such that, when right lever **700** is displaced by a plank, right spring link **710** and right linkage bar **720** are longitudinally translated, thereby moving first right vertical roller **368** away from first left vertical roller **268**, moving second right vertical roller **420** away from second left vertical roller **400**, and moving third right vertical roller **498** away from third left vertical roller **488**. A Right spring having a first end and second end may be provided. The first end is affixed to first right fixed support **186**. The second end is affixed to spring tab **716** of right spring link **710**.

A first plank receiving platform **750** is preferably pivotally received on first left fixed support **180** and first right fixed support **186** and first left fixed support. Platform support **752** is provided to maintain first plank receiving platform **750** in a horizontal position for receiving planks (FIGS. **1** and **3**). First plank receiving platform **750** preferably may be positioned in a vertical orientation (FIGS. **2** and **4**) for storage.

A second plank receiving platform **760** is pivotally affixed to left end bracket **510** and right end bracket **540**. Platform support **762** is provided to maintain second plank receiving platform **760** in a horizontal position for receiving planks after passing through enclosure **40** (FIGS. **1** and **3**). Second plank receiving platform **760** preferably may be positioned in a vertical orientation (FIGS. **2** and **4**) for storage.

Device **10** is for applying stain or paint to a plank. A plank has a leading end, a trailing end, a left side, right side, top side, and bottom side. Plank **800** is received on first plank receiving platform **750** where plank **800** may be fed into in plank receiver **164**. After passing through plank receiver **164**, plank **800** is supported on support roller **190**. Plank **800** may then be advanced until making contact with first upper horizontal roller **220**, whereupon first upper horizontal roller **220** and first horizontal sprayer **230** are lifted, if necessary, to accommodate a height of plank **800**. Stain or paint is delivered from first horizontal sprayer **230** to first upper horizontal roller **220** and rolled onto plank **800**.

The leading end of plank **800** is further advanced until making contact with left lever **600** and right lever **700**, whereupon levers **600**, **700** are displaced by plank **800**. Displacement of levers **600** and **700** longitudinally displaces left linkage bar **620** and right linkage bar **720**, thereby simultaneously separating first left vertical roller **268** and first right vertical roller **368**, separating second left vertical roller **400** from second right vertical roller **420**, and separating third left vertical roller **488** from third right vertical roller **498** by a desired amount for contacting left side **806** and right side **808** of plank **800** as it passes between the vertical rollers.

Stain or paint is delivered to first left vertical roller **268** through perforated vertical portion of first left vertical sprayer **250**. Stain or paint is delivered to first right vertical roller **368** through perforated vertical portion of first right vertical sprayer **350**. First left vertical roller **268** and first right vertical roller **368** apply stain or paint to the sides of plank **800** and the plank passes between the rollers. Plank **800** then passes over first lower horizontal roller **380** and then between second left vertical roller **400** and second right vertical roller **420**. Upon making contact with second upper horizontal roller **440**, the leading edge of plank **800** pivots second upper horizontal roller **440** forward and upwards to accommodate a height of plank **800**, if necessary. The leading edge of plank **800** then passes through third left vertical roller **488** and third right vertical roller **498**, and over third lower horizontal roller **500** whereupon the plank is received on second plank receiving platform **760**.

Although particular embodiments have been described herein, it will be appreciated that the invention is not limited thereto and that many modifications and additions thereto may be made within the scope of the invention. For example, various combinations of the features of the following dependent claims can be made with the features of the independent claims without departing from the scope of the present invention.

It is to be understood that the terms “including”, “comprising”, “consisting” and grammatical variants thereof do not preclude the addition of one or more components, features, steps, or integers or groups thereof and that the terms are to be construed as specifying components, features, steps or integers.

If the specification or claims refer to “an additional” element, that does not preclude there being more than one of the additional element.

It is to be understood that where the claims or specification refer to “a” or “an” element, such reference is not to be construed that there is only one of that element.

It is to be understood that where the specification states that a component, feature, structure, or characteristic “may”, “might”, “can” or “could” be included, that particular component, feature, structure, or characteristic is not required to be included.

Further, it should be noted that terms of approximation (e.g., “about”, “substantially”, “approximately”, etc.) are to be interpreted according to their ordinary and customary meanings as used in the associated art unless indicated otherwise herein. Absent a specific definition within this disclosure, and absent ordinary and customary usage in the associated art, such terms should be interpreted to be plus or minus 10% of the base value.

Thus, the present invention is well adapted to carry out the objects and attain the ends and advantages mentioned above as well as those inherent therein. While the inventive device has been described and illustrated herein by reference to certain preferred embodiments in relation to the drawings attached thereto, various changes and further modifications, apart from those shown or suggested herein, may be made therein by those of ordinary skill in the art, without departing from the spirit of the inventive concept the scope of which is to be determined by the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A device for staining or painting planks comprising:
 - an enclosure defining a bottom surface;
 - a plank receiver for guiding a plank into said enclosure;
 - a first pair of vertical rollers for engaging the plank received in said plank receiver;
 - a second pair of vertical rollers for engaging the plank;
 - a lever positioned to contact the plank upon exit from said plank receiver;

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a linkage bar affixed to said lever, said linkage bar affixed to one of said first pair of vertical rollers and to one of said second pair of vertical rollers;
 wherein movement of said lever moves said one of said first pair of vertical rollers and one of said second pair of vertical rollers in preparation for receiving a leading edge of the plank.

2. The device according to claim 1 further comprising:
 a frame for supporting said enclosure;
 a container supported by said frame;
 a pump for delivering contents from said container into said enclosure.

3. The device according to claim 2 wherein:
 said bottom surface of said enclosure defines a drain orifice for transferring unused stain or paint back to said container.

4. The device according to claim 1 wherein:
 said plank receiver has a right side and a left side, said right side and said left side adjustable with respect to one another for accommodating planks of various thicknesses.

5. The device according to claim 1 wherein:
 said first pair of vertical rollers comprise a first left vertical roller and first right vertical roller wherein said first left vertical roller is mounted on a left swing arm and said first right vertical roller is mounted on a right swing arm for facilitating adjustment of a space between said first left vertical roller and said first right vertical roller for accommodating planks of various thicknesses;
 a left vertical sprayer pivotally mounted and in communication with said left swing arm for pivoting with said first left vertical roller for maintaining a constant distance between said first left vertical roller and said left vertical sprayer;
 a right vertical sprayer pivotally mounted and in communication with said right swing arm for pivoting with said first right vertical roller for maintaining a constant distance between said first right vertical roller and said right vertical sprayer.

6. The device according to claim 1 further comprising:
 at least one horizontal roller in said enclosure, said at least one horizontal roller adapted for vertical movement in response to the plank for accommodating planks of different heights;
 a horizontal sprayer adjacent said at least one horizontal roller, said horizontal sprayer adapted for moving with said horizontal roller for maintaining a constant distance between said horizontal sprayer and said horizontal roller.

7. The device according to claim 1 wherein:
 said second pair of vertical rollers comprise a second left vertical roller and second right vertical roller wherein said second left vertical roller is mounted on a second left swing arm and said second right vertical roller is mounted on a second right swing arm for facilitating adjustment of a space between said second left vertical roller and said second right vertical roller for accommodating planks of various thicknesses.

8. The device according to claim 1 further comprising:
 at least one plank receiving platform for supporting the plank upon at least one of entry and exit from said enclosure.

9. A device for staining or painting planks comprising:
 an enclosure defining a bottom surface, a left side panel extending upwardly from said bottom surface and a

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right side panel extending upwardly from said bottom surface;
 a plank receiver having a vertical left side member and a vertical right side member for receiving and guiding the plank therebetween and for guiding the plank into said enclosure;
 a first pair of vertical rollers between said left side panel and said right side panel, said first pair of vertical rollers comprising a first left vertical roller and first right vertical roller wherein said first left vertical roller is mounted on a left swing arm and said first right vertical roller is mounted on a right swing arm for facilitating adjustment of a space between said first left vertical roller and said first right vertical roller for accommodating planks of various thicknesses;
 a left vertical sprayer pivotally mounted and in communication with said left swing arm for pivoting with said first left vertical roller for maintaining a constant distance between said first left vertical roller and said left vertical sprayer;
 a right vertical sprayer pivotally mounted and in communication with said right swing arm for pivoting with said first right vertical roller for maintaining a constant distance between said first right vertical roller and said right vertical sprayer.

10. The device according to claim 9 further comprising:
 a frame for supporting said enclosure;
 a container supported by said frame;
 a pump for delivering contents from said container into said enclosure.

11. The device according to claim 10 wherein:
 said bottom surface of said enclosure defines a drain orifice for transferring unused stain or paint back to said container.

12. The device according to claim 9 wherein:
 said plank receiver has a right side and a left side, said right side and said left side adjustable with respect to one another for accommodating planks of various thicknesses.

13. The device according to claim 9 further comprising:
 at least one horizontal roller in said enclosure, said horizontal roller adapted for vertical movement in response to the plank for accommodating planks of different heights;
 a horizontal sprayer adjacent said horizontal roller, said horizontal sprayer adapted for moving with said horizontal roller for maintaining a constant distance between said horizontal sprayer and said horizontal roller.

14. The device according to claim 9 further comprising:
 a second pair of vertical rollers comprising a second left vertical roller and a second right vertical roller wherein said second left vertical roller is mounted on a second left swing arm and said second right vertical roller is mounted on a second right swing arm for facilitating adjustment of a space between said second left vertical roller and said second right vertical roller for accommodating planks of various thicknesses.

15. A device for staining or painting planks comprising:
 an enclosure defining a bottom surface;
 a plank receiver for guiding a plank into said enclosure;
 a first pair of vertical rollers comprising a first left vertical roller and first right vertical roller wherein said first left vertical roller is mounted on a left swing arm and said first right vertical roller is mounted on a right swing

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arm for facilitating adjustment of a space between said first left vertical roller and said first right vertical roller for accommodating planks of various thicknesses;

a left vertical sprayer pivotally mounted and in communication with said left swing arm for pivoting with said first left vertical roller for maintaining a constant distance between said first left vertical roller and said left vertical sprayer;

a right vertical sprayer pivotally mounted and in communication with said right swing arm for pivoting with said first right vertical roller for maintaining a constant distance between said first right vertical roller and said right vertical sprayer;

a second pair of vertical rollers comprising a second left vertical roller and a second right vertical roller wherein said second left vertical roller is mounted on a second left swing arm and said second right vertical roller is mounted on a second right swing arm for facilitating

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adjustment of a space between said second left vertical roller and said second right vertical roller for accommodating planks of various thicknesses;

a lever positioned to contact the plank upon exit from said plank receiver;

a linkage bar affixed to said lever, said linkage bar affixed to one of said first pair of vertical rollers and to one of said second pair of vertical rollers;

wherein movement of said lever moves one of said first pair of vertical rollers and one of said second pair of vertical rollers for preparing to receive a leading edge of the plank.

16. The device according to claim **9** further comprising: at least one plank receiving platform for supporting the plank upon at least one of entry and exit from said enclosure.

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